

League Lines

FALL 2017/WINTER 2018

Volume 4: Issue 2



Letter from the President

Happy fall to everyone!

I can hardly believe that we are in our seventh month of the League year already! We have had a busy few months and have so much coming soon to look forward to! We kicked off our monthly General Membership Meetings (GMMs) in September with a tailgate themed event. It was so great to see everyone after a few months off for the summer. In October we had a guest speaker from The Well House in Birmingham, Maryhelen Kirkpatrick, who is also a Sustainer of the Junior League of Birmingham. All members in attendance thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the human trafficking epidemic in our area and signs we can look for to help recognize potential victims. In November we looked forward to getting together with our Sustaining Member hosts for a Home Harvest GMM. And our League Christmas party was a great time of fellowship!

Our Membership team has been hard at work welcoming in our New Member class with a great New Member retreat and meetings. Throughout the fall, these new ladies have been diligently working to plan and awesome New Member project to support the young girls at Anniston High School. Stay tuned for more details!

Also coming up, we are preparing to meet our group of 9th grade girls participating in the Girls Graduate (G2) mentoring program. Our program will focus on three areas: Academic Achievement, Personal Growth and Leadership Development, and Community Involvement. Throughout these focus areas, the mentees will have many opportunities to meet with League mentors at community and League sponsored events and volunteer opportunities. I am so excited for this program and the potential impact it has to shape all the lives involved! *Active and Sustaining Members, here is your call to action!* There is still time to sign up to be a mentor for G2! Email community@jlaniston.org if you are interested.

We still have so much League year left and so much to do! I am very thankful for each of our Members and the hard work she puts into her corner of the League! Together we make our mission of Developing the Potential of ALL Women possible!

Best Regards,

Amanda Martin

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ANNISTON-CALHOUN

Membership



Our Annual Summer Social was held on July 21st at the Anniston Country Club. The theme was Service and Sundresses which included a Sudden Impact activity in which members and their guests wrote thank you notes to other non-profits and service organizations. These cards were mailed in hopes to flood Calhoun County with gratitude to keep volunteers inspired to keep serving and let them know that we appreciate what they do to help make our community a better place.

The September GMM was a fun kick-off to the year with a sports theme and an After Hours social at the Gridiron. The AJLI Membership Model Rollout was presented to membership. The October GMM was focused on bringing awareness to issues and how advocacy is important at the local level. Our

guest speaker was Maryhelen Kirkpatrick from The Well House in Odenville who spoke on their organization and helped educate the League on how to recognize sex trafficking as we serve our community. Members enjoyed social time at Chick-Fil-A following the meeting. Members enjoyed our annual Home Harvest in November. Sustainers and Members opened their homes and served delicious meals to all members. The intimate time spent together was a great time to reflect on what the League had accomplished and how to reach our goals in the 2018 portion of this League year. Our Christmas Party was a festive gathering at Laura Jones' home in Anniston. Members came dressed in festive attire, enjoyed a catered meal from Effina's Downtown and a dessert bar with homemade treats from our League's own members. A Sudden Impact/Done in a Day project was also incorporated where members brought gift cards to various restaurants and shopping centers to donate to Anniston High School for the Honor Roll students to receive at the end of their semester for all their hard work focusing on their grades.



Member Spotlight: Mindi Amberson

Mindi is originally from White Plains area, and stayed around for college at Jacksonville State University. She loved it so much, she stayed around for all three degrees! At the age of 16, she knew she was called in to social work after a life changing mission trip, and the amazing mentors she had in this area that have helped her be successful. As Mindi professionally grew as a social worker, she new she wanted more... so she went back for her master's and educational specialist in counseling. Mindi says, "funny how God uses different life experiences and job opportunities to lead you on a path that answers every life calling you have ever felt!" Mindi is now a LPC, NCC working as a school counselor full time at Wellborn Elementary (Go Panthers!). She also works part time as a contract counselor with her company Orchard Road Counseling and Consulting, mostly seeing clients through Garrett Counseling in Jacksonville. She is working on her Registered Play Therapy certification, which she would love to use in work with children and with clients in marriage counseling! Mindi is currently serving as Alabama School Counselor of the year and is "so excited to represent our state in Washington D.C. in February at a national level!"

Mindi is married to Justin Amberson, who she says is her foundational support for so much in her life. He has believed in every dream she's ever had. "He encourages me, keeps me grounded, and reminds me of the free spirit I've been called to be!" They have four children, MaKaiyah (11), David Aziah (8), Addyson (6), and Shiloh (1).

This is Mindi's third year as a member of JLAC. Lori Ellis encouraged her to get involved in JLAC. "Her compassion for helping others was so contagious that I had no choice but to join her!" Community Impact has been her favorite JLAC placement. She loved the flexibility that JLAC offers since Mindi is super busy August through November, but she can speed up her JLAC involvement when her personal and professional life slows down. Her favorite JLAC memory was definitely the new member project. "We had such a great time as a committee making the opportunity for dinner and clothes pick up for Weaver families. I loved getting to know each other, laughing and running from the bat!" From being in JLAC, Mindi has learned that our gifts can be used if we allow them, and that strong women together make a huge difference! She loves that our mission is about developing young women so that this can continue in our community for years to come.

Mind is also involved in our local Children's Policy Council and is Coach of the Wellborn Youth Cheerleaders Junior Squad! They

Sustainer Spotlight: Sara Rutledge

Ms. Sara Rutledge grew up in Anniston and graduated from the University of Alabama. She worked as a visual information specialist for 20 years, as a budget analyst for 12 years, and a ministerial assistant for 2 years. Ms. Rutledge is a founding member of the East Alabama Artists, Incorporated. They operated Artworks Gallery on Noble Street and now show their artwork at Noble Gallery located in Nunnelley Art and Frame.

She has been a member of JLAC since its incorporation in 1992. Prior to that, she was a member of the Service League. Ms. Rutledge transferred to Sustainer Status in 1998. She got involved in Junior League because she had read about some of their projects and joined when a friend asked! Her favorite placement was at the Museum of Natural History gift shop working with Louise Lokey. That placement opened the door for a long-term volunteer experience working with and on the Museum League Board and involvement in a number of projects at the museum complex.

Of the many fond memories Ms. Rutledge has of projects she worked on as an active member and the friendships she made, one of her favorite memories was the Ducky Derby Race at Oxford Lake! From being a part of JLAC, Ms. Rutledge has learned what can be accomplished by a group of women with a common vision and the will to make a difference in their community! Being active in the Junior League inspired her to become active in other organizations over the years. She is currently a Reading Buddy at Kitty Stone Elementary and assists with the Alabama Freedom Flight organization in Jacksonville.

Community Impact

At our September General Membership Meeting (GMM), we hosted a Sudden Impact. Members brought items for the Texas hurricane victims and the donations were carried to the Oxford Fire Department where they were combined with other donations to be shipped to Texas. We were happy to be able to make a small impact!

We will be mentoring several young ladies at Anniston High School for our Girls Graduate (G2) Mentoring Program. We will spend quality time with them as a group and individually, helping them to develop their gifts that will help them to advance in life. We aim to teach them to value themselves, and to help them accomplish their goals in life.

Amanda Martin

Tina Roberts

Crystal Vinson

Lindsay Tyson

Lisa Spurling

Candace Finley

Kaitlin Barber

Casey MacAllister

Jennifer Jones

SamieJo Legg

Melanee Sumner



Moments and Milestones



KATY BURLEY

Little Leaguer

Marleigh Kate Burley was born at 11:18am on July 31st to Chris and Katy Burley. She weighed 7 pound and 1 ounce and was 19 inches long!

BRITTAIN BENTON

Little Leaguer

Brooklynn Ella Benton was born August 15th. She weighed 7.0 pounds and was 20.5 inches long. Her proud parents are Brittain and Barry Benton!



KATY BURLEY

New Job

Katy started a job as a teacher, special education, at Indian Valley Elementary School! We're proud of you Katy!

AMBER REYNOLDS

Little Leaguer

Ross Griffin Reynolds was born July 12th weighing 9 pounds 15 ounces. He was 22 inches long. Ross's parents are very excited for their newest edition!

Procurement

The Procurement team would like to thank Simmons Staffing and Shawn Snider - State Farm for signing on as new Community Sponsors to Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun. We would also like to thank the JLAC Board of Directors and BR Williams for their continued support as renewed Community Sponsors. Thank you to all for supporting our League!

Silver Sponsor:

Farmers & Merchants Bank
Alabama Power Foundation

Bronze Sponsor:

Eastman
JLAC Board of Directors

Supporter Sponsor:

Anniston Eye Clinic
BR Williams
Designer Smiles by Benton

Patron Sponsor:

NobleBank & Trust
Simmons Staffing
Shawn Snider - State Farm
Trixie Snead, JLAC Sustainer

Our Procurement and Development Team has been hard at work this year! We've received a gift card from Public, a grant from Wal-Mart, a grant from Wells Fargo, and funds from our Silver Sponsor: Alabama Power Foundation. All the funds are used for the Girls Graduate (G2) Program!

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ANNISTON-CALHOUN

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Junior League
Anniston-Calhoun



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Dates to Remember:

April

4/10 - April GMM

4/13 - Designer Bag Bingo

4/14 - Adopt A Mile Clean Up

May

5/8 - May Dinner



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